



FH
[REDACTED]

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/155090

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed January 28, 2014, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on February 25, 2014, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether Petitioner's FoodShare allotment has been correctly determined.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
By: Simone Johnson
Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W Vliet St, Room 106
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

David D. Fleming
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. Petitioner filed this appeal to question that calculation of her FoodShare allotment for November 2013. The agency determined the allotment to be \$120.00. It had been \$285.00. There were two reasons for the reduction: Petitioner's shelter expense declined and FoodShare benefits were reduced

nationwide by the expiration of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as of November 1, 2013.

3. The agency determined Petitioner's total monthly gross income to be \$1066.78 consisting entirely of SSI and related benefits totaling \$816.78 and Caretaker Supplement benefits of \$250.00.
4. In determining Petitioner's FoodShare allotment for November 2013 the agency credited Petitioner with the following deductions: a standard deduction of \$152, a shelter deduction of \$158.61 based upon rent of \$166.00 and the utility allowance of \$450.00. Petitioner's rent had been \$650.0 per month but she began receiving a housing allowance benefit that lowered her rent to \$166.00 as of the November 2013 allotment calculation.
5. Petitioner's household size is 2.
6. Petitioner's medical expenses do not exceed \$35.00 per month. She is not aware of any outstanding medical bills.

DISCUSSION

To receive FoodShare benefits a household must have income below gross and net income limits though the gross income test does not apply where a household has an elderly blind or disabled member. *7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §273.9(b); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook (FSH), § 1.1.4.* The agency must budget all income of the FS household, including all earned and unearned income. *7 CFR § 273.9(b); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook (FSH), § 4.3.1.* SSI and CTS benefits are countable. *FSH, §4.3.4.2.*

Once a household passes the gross income test the following deductions are applied (*FSH, at § 4.6*):

- (1) a standard deduction - which currently is \$152 per month for a household of 1-3 persons, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(1)*;
- (2) an earned income deduction - which equals 20% of the household's total earned income, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(2)*;
- (3) certain medical expenses – for medical expenses exceeding \$35 in a month for an elderly or disabled person, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(3)*;
- (4) dependent care deduction for child care expenses, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(4)*; and
- (5) shelter and utility expenses deduction – the utility allowance is a standard and is \$450.00 per month and the deduction is equal to the excess expense above 50% of net income remaining after other deductions. *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(5).* There is a cap of \$478.00 on the shelter cost deduction unless a household has an elderly [60 or older], blind or disabled member. *FSH, §§ 4.6.7.1 and 8.1.3.*

Petitioner did not dispute the income or expenses used here. In reviewing the calculation, I cannot note any errors.

Petitioner should note that changes reported in one month are effective in the next. *FSH, §6.1.3.3.* If she has any changes in the allowable expenses detailed above she should report these as soon as possible.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

That the available evidence is sufficient to demonstrate that it correctly determined Petitioner's FoodShare allotment for November 2013.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That this appeal is dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 25th day of March, 2014

\sDavid D. Fleming
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on March 25, 2014.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability